(Fundamental Rights) of the Constitution. Article 21-A states that 'The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 6 to 14 years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine".

The follow up legislation envisaged in the above Article is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Plan allocations for Elementary Education have been steadily increasing over the years. In addition, limited external assistancde, as and when necessary, has been tapped for the universalisation of elementary education through the District Primary Education Programme and more recently the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

State Government have also been requested to mobilize resources from the community, on a voluntary basis, for improvement of primary education.

In the Union Budget presented on 8.7.2004, an education cess has also been proposed on income tax, corporation tax, excise and customs duties, and service tax to fulfil the Govenrment's commitment to provide and finance universalised quality basic education.

Malpractices in public schools

†*100. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management in most of the public schools is arbitrarly charging tuition fees and donation for the admission of the students;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the management in such schools is giving less salary to the teachers and taking the receipt of full amount; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check such cheating by the managements of public schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) As per the information furnished by the CBSE the Affiliation Bye-laws of the Board states that fees being charged by the schools affiliated to it should be commensurate with the facilities provided by the institution. There is also a provision that no capitation fee or voluntary donation for gaining admission in the school or for any other purpose should be charged. The schools can therefore have different fee structures. However, this cannot be arbitary. The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) has also informed the Ministry that

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

schools affiliated to the Council shall charge fees that are commensurate with the facilities provided and shall not insist on 'donations'.

(b) The schools affiliated with the CBSE are also required to pay salary to the teachers which should not be less than the corresponding categories of employees working in the State Government schools. Complaints received about such irregularities are dealt with as per the provisions of the Affiliation Bye-laws of the Board. The CISCE has informed us that no such complaint has been received by the Council.

(c) Provisions have been made in the Affliation Bye-Laws of the CBSE to check such malpractices. However, allegations of donations' & other malpractices are reported from time to time. Instructions are issued on a regular basis to public schools on these issues. Action is taken on the basis of substantive evidence provided. Such action includes disaffiliation of the school, withholding the extension of provisional affiliation/upgradation of the school. A total of 11 schools were disaffiliated for these reasons and 4 were downgraded during the last two years. The CISCE has stated that a school, namely the St. Gregorios High School, Gregorios Nagar, Near Diamond Garden, Sion Trombay Road, Chembur, Mumbai-400 071, was reported in the press/media charging donation and necessary action was taken against the school authorities. The school has been warned against the practice.

WRITTEN ANSERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Subsidy to fishing vessels

161.SHRIS.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MPEDA has scheme to extend diesel oil subsidy to fishing vessels engaged in export of marine products;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) how much money has been released by MPEDA in 2003-04 under this scheme;

(d) the estimates for 2004-05; and

(e) the steps taken to assist the fishing vessel owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.